What is claimed is:

1. A system comprising:

an interface to receive a request from a client system for information in a database system; and

a controller to format metadata associated with the requested information into a format for display in the client system,

the controller further to map plural data types in the database system to corresponding file types to enable presentation in the client system of an object having an associated data type retrieved from the database system.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein the controller comprises a network communications service to receive the request from the client system.

3. The system of claim 2, wherein the network communications service comprises a Hypertext Transport Protocol service.

4. The system of claim 1, the controller to format the metadata into a predetermined format displayable by a browser.

5. The system of claim 4, wherein the predetermined format comprises a format selected from the group consisting of a Hypertext Markup Language format, an Extensible Markup Language format, and a Wireless Markup Language format.

6. The system of claim 1, wherein the database system comprises an object relational database system.

7. The system of claim 1, wherein the plural data types comprise two or more of the following: audio data, video data, multimedia data, image data, and geospatial data.

8. The system of claim 1, further comprising a storage element containing an object retrieved from the database system, the controller to communicate data in the object as a stream to the client system.

9. The system of claim 8, wherein the controller communicates portions of the object to the client system in the stream so that the entire object need not be communicated to the client system for storage.

10. The system of claim 1, wherein the metadata comprises a hyperlink.

11. The system of claim 10, the interface to receive a second request indicating selection of the hyperlink, the hyperlink corresponding to the object in the database system.

12. The system of claim 11, the controller to determine a data type of the object and to map the data type to a corresponding file type.

13. The system of claim 1, wherein the metadata contains a description of plural objects in the database system.

14. The system of claim 13, wherein the description comprises hyperlinks corresponding to the plural objects.

15. A method of accessing an object relational database, comprising:

receiving metadata relating to requested information from the object relational database;

displaying at least a portion of the metadata as a hyperlink;

in response to selection of the hyperlink, sending a request for an object in the object relational database, the object containing information associated with the selected metadata portion; and

associating the object with one of plural presentation routines to present the information in the object.

16. The method of claim 15, further comprising displaying the metadata in a browser screen.

17. The method of claim 16, further comprising associating plural data types stored in the object relational database with corresponding plural file types.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein associating the object with one of plural presentation routines is based on the file type of the object.

19. The method of claim 15, further comprising invoking the one presentation routine as a plug-in to a browser.

20. An article comprising at least one storage medium containing instructions that when executed cause a first system to:

receive a request from a client system for data in a database;

retrieve the data from the database; and

determine a data type of the retrieved data and map the data type to a file type presentable by the client system.

21. The article of claim 20, wherein the instructions when executed cause the first system to:

retrieve metadata describing the requested data; and

format the metadata according to a predetermined format displayable by the client system.

22. The article of claim 21, wherein the predetermined format comprises one of a Hypertext Markup Language format, an Extensible Markup Language format, and a Wireless Markup Language format.

23. The article of claim 21, wherein the metadata comprises a hyperlink, the instructions when executed causing the first system to receive activation of the hyperlink and to retrieve the data in response to the activation of the hyperlink.

24. The article of claim 20, wherein the instructions when executed cause the first system to retrieve an object from an object relational database.

25. The article of claim 20, wherein the database stores rules pertaining to presentation of the data in the client system, the instructions when executed causing the first system to access the rules to map the data type to the file type.

26. A database system comprising:

one or more storage devices containing an applet and a document;

an interface to a network; and

a controller to communicate the document to a client device, the document containing data defining a page displayable in a browser screen, and the applet containing instructions that when executed provide an interactive portion of the browser screen.

27. The database system of claim 26, wherein the applet comprises a query applet containing instructions that when executed provide an interactive query portion of the browser screen.

28. The database system of claim 27, wherein the query applet comprises instructions that when executed receive user-entered queries.

29. The database system of claim 27, wherein the query applet comprises instructions that when executed receive Structured Query Language queries.

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